**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, April 8, 2018 – Holy Communion**

**Sermon Title: I Am: I Am Sending You**

**Scripture: Exodus 3:14-15 (NIV)** 14God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” 15God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ “This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

**John 20:19:32 (NIV)** 19On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” 22And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” 24Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” 26A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 27Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” 28Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” 29Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” 30Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**Revelation 1:8 (NIV)** 8“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only)**

Leader:On this Lord’s Day, we come together, O God, to proclaim the Living One, the First and the Last, who was dead, but now is forever alive.

**People: Open our hearts to the Spirit Jesus breathes on us. Help us, who have not seen, to believe; send us, as you have sent Jesus, to greet the world with the Easter word of peace and to share with all the Spirit’s new life of forgiveness. We ask through the Lord Jesus, our Passover and our Peace, who lives and reigns now forever. Amen.**

**Basic Theme:** **While Lent as a season ends with Easter, Easter is without end. We are an Easter people because we still live in the afterglow of the resurrection. We worship each week on Sunday, the first day of the week, to celebrate that death has been conquered and to proclaim the “Our Savior Lives!” We do not serve a suffering savior, we serve a risen Lord. This is a story that we must tell!**

**Sermon Snapshot: *Jesus appeared to his disciples in the upper room. Both his appearance and his presence was miraculous. John writes that they saw the scars on his hands and side and they were overjoyed! Their Lord was alive! Jesus then bluntly told them their mission, “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you!” Jesus was sent to reveal the power of God and to glorify the Father. So too are we sent out into our world to reveal the power of God and glorify the Father.***

**So What? Do you really believe the miraculous truth of the resurrection? Do you believe this single event forever changed the course of history? Do you believe that it has the power to change both your present and your future? What will you do with it? Are you willing to be sent?**